

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/INS:DKUX:EI

APPROVED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR.

S/S - JPMOFFAT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 042909

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR KAUL ON U.S. ARMS POLICY

REF: STATE 41785

BANGKOK PASS AMBASSADOR SAXBE

1. ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR KAUL FEBRUARY 25 ON INSTRUCTIONS FROM THE SECRETARY TO PROTEST LANGUAGE OF STATEMENT KAUL ISSUED FEBRUARY 24 ON ARMS POLICY DECISION. ADVISING KAUL THAT CHARGE IN NEW DELHI MAKING SIMILAR PROTEST, ATHERTON CONVEYED POINTS AS OUTLINED IN REFTEL. HE ALSO STATED THAT WE TRUSTED KAUL WOULD NOT SEEK TO STIR CONGRESSIONAL OPPOSITION TO OUR DECISION. ATHERTON SAID THAT NOW DECISION HAD BEEN MADE ANY SUCH ATTEMPT WOULD EXCEED BOUNDS OF RESPECT FOR INTERNAL AFFAIRS AND WOULD HAVE "SERIOUS CONSEQUENCES."

2. IN VERY TESTY RESPONSE, KAUL ASSERTED HIS STATEMENT WAS CLEARED BY GOI, ADDING HE HAD TRIED TO MAKE HIS WORDS "AS MILD AS POSSIBLE" UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCE. KAUL SAID THAT HIS REMARKS ON CREDIBILITY OF U.S. ASSURANCES WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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MEANT TO REFER TO PAST, NOT PRESENT, ASSURANCES. WITH

REGARD TO THESE, HE SAID HE TOLD NEWSMEN THAT ONE HAD TO
"WAIT AND SEE."

3. KAUL ASKED THAT ATHERTON CONVEY TO SECRETARY HIS
ASSURANCE THAT HE HAD NO INTENTION OF INTERFERING IN OUR
INTERNAL AFFAIRS. KAUL SAID HE WOULD UNDERTAKE NO LOBBY-
ING, BUT IF ASKED BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS WOULD, OF COURSE,
STATE HIS VIEWS. KISSINGER

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